

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:684
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2002
TOTAL LITERACY CAMPAIGN THROUGH ZSS
RAMJI MANJHI; SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government had launched Total Literacy Campaign (TLC) in January 1989 for imparting functional literacy to adults in the age-group of 15-35 years and children in the age-group of 9-14 years with an objective of achieving 80-85 percent literacy among women, men, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through Zila Saksharata Samities (ZSS) which was set up in each district for this purpose;
- (b) the target fixed to achieve the objective;
- (c) whether the objective has been achieved;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Rs. 737.22 crore was released to Zila Saksharata Samities by the Centre and the States;
- (f) if so, the amount utilised and that remained unspent alongwith reasons therefor;
- (g) whether the audit has noticed avoidable expenditure, unadjusted advances, diversion of funds etc.; and
- (h) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINIS
OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI)

(a) to (h) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PART (a) TO (h) OF LOKSABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.684 TO BE ANSWERED
14.05.2002 BY SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI AND SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI

(a) & (b) The National Literacy Mission (NLM) was launched on 5th May 1988 as a Technology Mission to impart functional literacy to non-literates in the age group of 15-35 years including women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The objective of the Mission was to impart functional literacy to 80 million illiterate persons in the 15-35 age group by 1995.

(c) & (d) The number of persons made literate till December 31, 2001 under all the schemes of the NLM is 96.64 million. According to information received from the states, from the year 1996-1997 to 2000-01, among the total number of persons made literate, 60% were women; 21.23% were Scheduled Castes and 11.79% were Scheduled Tribes.

The census 2001 provisional reports indicate that India has made significant progress in the field of literacy during the decade since the last census in 1991. The literacy rate in 2001 has been recorded at 65.38% as against 52.21% in 1991. The 13.17 percentage points increase in the literacy rate during the period is the highest increase in any decade. The total number of non-literates has come down from 328 million in 1991 to 296 million in 2001. All States and Union Territories without exception have shown increase in literacy rates during 1991 to 2001. Three fourths of our male population and more than half of the female population is literate.

(e) & (f) The funds released for Literacy Campaigns by the Centre and the States up to 31st March 2001 were approximately Rs.936.33 crores. As against this the expenditure up to 31st March 2001 was approximately Rs.804.77 crores.

Funds are sanctioned and released in a phased manner depending upon the progress of implementation of the projects and settlement of accounts in respect of the funds sanctioned and released earlier. According to information provided by the State Governments, slow implementation of projects by the ZSS and non-settlement of accounts in respect of funds released earlier has been a reason for incomplete utilisation of allocated funds.

(g) & (h) The audit test check has noticed avoidable expenditure, unadjusted advances and diversion of funds. Clarifications in

respect of the points noticed in the audit test check have been sent to the Director General (Audit) for vetting.